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JPRS L/9594

10 March 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 11/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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AUSTRALIA

CUSTOMS OFFICERS UNPREPARED FOR SCOPE OF DRUG INFLUX

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 16 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Sydney.--Australian customs officials are ill-prepared for an expected influx of illegal drugs into Australia, according to the Customs Officers' Association New South Wales president, Mr Peter Bennett.

He said yesterday the number of trained law enforcement customs officers was 33 percent down on the established number set by the Business and Consumer Affairs Department in the face of a bumper crop in south-east Asia's "golden triangle."

He said: "If the smugglers decide to hit Australia in large numbers the customs officers will not have the capacity to look after the problem."

Mr Bennett said that the number of customs prevention officers had dropped steadily over the last three years as officers who left were not replaced.

"Morale is very bad," he said. "This is partly because of a new departmental policy of training all customs staff in detection methods, which is neither efficient nor effective."

"Some staff do not want to work as prevention officers while other enforcement staff are being forced to work in clerical positions."

Mr Bennett also criticised the recently announced increase in the number of Australian Federal police who will be engaged exclusively in combating drug trafficking.

"The Government appears to be creating enormous sectional bureaucracies to combat smuggling and other customs offences simply because the customs officers are unable to do their job properly," he said.

"It appears that the government's philosophy has changed, with the emphasis now being on detecting contraband once it has entered the country rather than stopping it at the borders."

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT PLANS COORDINATED WAR ON HEROIN TRADE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Canberra.--The Federal Government is trying to head off the threat of intensified heroin trafficking in Australia.

The Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, yesterday outlined upgraded Federal police, customs and liaison action to meet the threat.

He said authorities had reported that the continued favourable weather could improve opium crops and double heroin production from the infamous Golden Triangle area where the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos meet.

Australia would be the marketplace for some of the increased supply, and the Federal Government was determined this should be tackled.

Protection moves included:

An increase in Australian Federal Police numbers exclusively engaged in combating drug trafficking, including overseas placements;

Upgrading liaison with overseas drug enforcement agencies;

A greater concentration of policing at points of entry into Australia. This would include greater cooperative action between police and customs and use of police drug intelligence with the Coastal Surveillance System.

"I don't want to alarm people, but we must face the situation realistically," Mr Newman said.

"The Government has recognised the threat and is taking action."

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AUSTRALIA

FOUR NSW POLICEMEN ON TRIAL FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Sydney.--Four New South Wales policemen charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice appeared in court here yesterday at the beginning of committal proceedings against them.

The magistrate, Mr R. Henry, SM, banned publication of names and evidence which could identify witnesses, other than police and government officers, in the hearing at Sydney Court.

He gave the instruction, he said, because if their identity was known, they could be reluctant to give evidence.

The four policemen, who are still working are Det. Sgt Arthur O'Sullivan, Det. Sgt John Ellis, Sgt Brian Borthwick and Det. Sen Constable John Robins.

With Antonio Sergi, they were charged with having conspired with each other and others unknown to pervert the course of justice on or about February 1, 1974 until November 24, 1978 at Griffith.

Mr Roger Court, for the Crown, alleged that Sergi and two other men were associated with the cultivation of indian hemp at a property at Griffith and that the police officers charged had turned a blind eye to the operation.

In his opening statement, Mr Court alleged that the conduct and various statements of the defendants showed an agreement between themselves and persons unknown to protect people involved in cultivating and selling Indian hemp in the Griffith area.

The police defendants had allowed people engaged in cultivating and selling Indian hemp, including Sergi, to remove quantities from where it was cultivated for illegal purposes after the place had, or should have come under police control.

He said, the defendants, after crops of Indian hemp had come to their attention, conducted their inquiries so as to limit improperly the involvement of some people and they had tried to protect Sergi in carrying out their investigations.

The police defendants collated and gave evidence in the New South Wales District Court on the appearance of two men so as to mislead the court with the intention of improperly protecting the men, Mr Court claimed.

He said the police defendants pretended to carry out inquiries into the cultivation of Indian hemp in the Griffith area. This had been done to present a false picture that they were carrying out a proper investigation of criminal activity.

Det. Sgt Ellis, Mr Court said, tried to further the conspiracy by giving evidence before the NSW royal commission on drugs which he knew to be false and designed to mislead.

Each of the four policemen had done what he did, or omitted to do what he should have done, for some personal, financial or other reward, he added.

The proceedings, which are expected to last two weeks, were adjourned until today.

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AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA POLICE RAID SOUGHT ILLICIT DRUG GROWERS

Swan Hill Targets

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Jill Baker]

[Text]

A POLICE task force raided farms and vineyards in northern Victoria yesterday in a bid to stamp out illicit drug growing.

Code-named "Operation Leo", the raids were aimed at the growing and harvesting of marijuana and other drugs.

The head of the Victorian CIB, Detective Chief-Superintendent Phil Bennett, said yesterday no arrests were made, but several people were being questioned about other criminal offences.

"Drugs are the most insidious problem that we have, and we are using every means at our disposal to stamp them out and bring the drug 'barons' in this State to justice," he said.

"This is the time of year when certain drugs are har-

vested around Swan Hill and on the Murray Valley Highway.

"Our task force visited a large number of farms which we regard as primary targets before moving on to the secondary ones.

"This raid is basically a prevention process to stamp out drug growing."

Superintendent Bennett said police from the Independent Patrol Group, the crack Special Operations Group, motorcycle branches and uniformed officers left Melbourne at 2am yesterday for Swan Hill, near the Victoria-NSW border.

More than 80 police were involved.

Previous raids netted millions of dollars' worth of marijuana crops and led to several drug-related arrests in the border region.

Detectives found most marijuana plantations were hidden between vines and other crops so they could not be easily detected from nearby roads or the air.

Yesterday's raids followed a long investigation into properties in the Swan Hill district.

More than 50 properties were searched during the operation, which was planned after an aerial survey had given police a detailed "map" of likely growing spots for drugs.

Superintendent Bennett said the vast majority of marijuana that was farmed in large quantities in Victoria came from the State's northern fruit and grape-growing areas.

He said raids of this type had been praised in the royal commission into drugs

Security Leak

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

MELBOURNE. — Victorian police will investigate an information leak after the biggest drug hunt operation in the state's history failed to find one leaf of marihuana.

Police believe marihuana growers in the Swan Hill area, about 340 kilometres north-west of Melbourne, were tipped off about the raids.

Intelligence police had worked in the area for more than two years gathering information on the illegal marihuana industry.

The raids, which involved 75 police trail-bike riders and special operations group members, were carried out on 50 vineyard and orchard properties in the area which is known as the state's marihuana capital.

Police also had aircraft in the area to detect any growers attempting to burn marihuana crops.

Police received information last week that there had been a leak over the top security drug operation.

The raids were carried out after originally having been scheduled for tomorrow.

Police considered cancelling the raids after they learned of the leak. They decided to carry out the operation in the hope that marihuana growers would destroy their own crops.

Victoria's assistant commissioner (crime), Mr Rod Hall, said police information was strong enough to believe marihuana would be found on the properties.

When the task force arrived at Swan Hill, a television crew was waiting outside the police station for them.

Mr Hall said yesterday's raid, code-named "Operation Leo," was classified as "highly confidential."

He said members of the task force were not told their destination and were told they were

heading to a "diversionary target" in an effort to protect security.

Members of the force were told of the true destination only when they stopped at Lake Boga, 14 km from Swan Hill.

Mr Hall said police would investigate the leak when final reports on the raid had been completed.

He said it was obvious that security lapsed. But he said he was not satisfied that the leak came from within police ranks.

"Perhaps the people who supplied police with information also passed it on to others," Mr Hall said.

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

SHIP MARIHUANA HAUL--Marihuana with an estimated street value of \$30,000 was seized aboard an overseas freighter docked at Hamilton wharves, the Magistrate's Court was told yesterday. Klaus Dieter Heiden, 24, unemployed, of Balfour Road, Rose Bay, Sydney, and Ludwig Robert Fieger, 30, fitter, care of MV Columbus New Zealand, were remanded in custody when they appeared in court yesterday. Each was charged with having a traffickable quantity of marihuana on January 5. No plea was entered, and no application for bail was made. The Crown Prosecutor Mr I. W. Bates, said it would be alleged Heiden admitted to Australian Federal Police he travelled from Sydney to Brisbane to collect 7.5 kg of marihuana from Fieger. Mr Bates said the estimated street value of the marihuana was \$30,000. He said it would be alleged Heiden had lived in Australia since 1978. He had a portion of the marihuana when Fieger was intercepted by customs officers as he left the ship at Hamilton. Heiden allegedly admitted having received in Sydney four months ago a previous import of about 5.5 kg of marihuana which he sold for \$11,800, Mr Bates said. He said a substantial amount of the money had been recovered by Australian Federal Police. Fieger was a crew member of the Columbus New Zealand, which arrived in Australia from Panama on Monday. Mr Wyvill, SM, remanded both men in custody until January 16. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 7 Jan 81 p 11]

AIR SMUGGLING PREVENTION--Melbourne: The Customs Department is installing new equipment to detect smugglers flying drugs and other contraband into outback Australia. The remote control airport surveillance equipment will warn customs officers when planes land at unused airfields. A Customs Department spokesman said yesterday that it would be impossible to monitor all outback airstrips. The equipment, which can be easily relocated, raises an alarm at the nearest Customs Dept office when a plane lands at a monitored airstrip. Later this month the Customs Department will take possession of its third leased Nomad aircraft to patrol Australia's unprotected north. [as published] Two Nomads were leased last year and are stationed at Townsville and Darwin. The third plane will be stationed at Port Hedland. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Jan 81 p 3]

POLICE SHED THEFT--Cairns.--North Queensland detectives are investigating the theft of marihuana from the police station at Mareeba, 50 km west of here. The marihuana was in a wool bale stored in a shed behind the police station. It had been in the shed about 12 months. It was a court exhibit. It was stolen between December 31 and yesterday morning. A padlock on the shed was cut with bolt cutters. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 8 Jan 81 p 3]

CANNABIS ON YACHT--A man appeared in the Port Hedland Court on Monday charged with attempting to import a quantity of cannabis and cannabis resin on a yacht which has been impounded at Port Hedland. Wayne Alexander Beckett (28) originally from New Zealand, was arrested on December 20, and has spent the time since his arrest in Roebourne Prison, because he was unable to raise \$2000 surety. He is believed to have been arrested after the customs launch "Jerboa" intercepted the 11m yacht "Shadow Fax" off the coast on that date. Beckett was not required to plead, but was remanded to appear again on January 27 at the same court. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN (NEWS OF THE NORTH) in English 8 Jan 81 p 4]

LENIENT SENTENCES--The Federal Attorney-General, Senator Durack, has appealed against sentences imposed on three people convicted on heroin charges. He says the sentences were far too lenient. In notices of appeal lodged at the Victorian Supreme Court, Senator Durack has asked the Court of Criminal Appeal to increase the jail sentences imposed on Salvatore Zampaglione, David Jewell and Helen Margaret Barnacle, who received sentences last month after a long trial. Senator Durack says the sentences were manifestly inadequate and that the trial judge failed to give proper weight to the need for deterrence. Antonio Zampaglione was sentenced to 25 years' jail with a non-parole period of 21 years, Salvatore Zampaglione was sentenced to 20 years with a non-parole period of 16 years, Jewell received 15 years with a non-parole period of 12 years and Barnacle received 12 years with a minimum of eight. They were sentenced by Mr Justice Gray. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 14 Jan 81 p 5]

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BURMA

BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED WITH HEROIN--Acting on a tipoff, police personnel of Mergui city police force raided the residence of Maung Myint U in Kanpya ward, Mergui, on 19 January and arrested a guest at the house--Aung Naing, alias Pashu, of Shwe Hinthaward, Kawthaung--after 14 small packets of heroin, a hypodermic syringe and needle were found on him. [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 4 Feb 81 p 6 BK]

OPIUM RAID IN WUNDWIN--Wundwin, 9 Jan--Acting on information that opium deals are being made at the residence of U Mya Maung and Daw Than Tin in Shawpin village, Ywadan village tract of Wundwin township, Subinspector U Tin Tun, private Ko Aung Tint, village council secretary U Mya Than and council member U Tin Ohn yesterday raided the residence of U Mya Maung and Daw Than Tin and found four persons--U Toe Pwa of Moulmein's Dinewunkwin; Ma Cho, houseowner Daw Than Tin and her daughter Ma Sit To--making heroin deals. When a search was conducted 18,000 kyat was found from U Toe Pwa and Ma Cho and four packets of opium weighing 5 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 pounds] were found buried beneath a tree. The sellers--Daw Than Tin and her daughter Ma Sit To--and buyers U Toe Pwa and Ma Cho were charged under sections 6.B. and 10.B of the Narcotic Drugs Law by Wundwin police station. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 17 Jan 81 p 6 BK]

KUTKAI SEARCH FINDS OPIUM--Kutkai, 27 Jan--Last week, a joint search party of customs, people's militia and other personnel, acting on information, searched at A.T. gate jeep No Ka/6405 driven by Ko San Maung and carrying passengers from Hsenwi to Lashio. The party found hidden under the bonnet of the jeep four balls of raw opium wrapped in a jute bag, weighing 4.40 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 pounds] and worth 6,750 kyat. Ma Pyone Kyi of 4th ward, Hsenwi, Ma Aye Ngwe, 24, of Pein Hon village of Hsenwi region and driver Ko San Maung were charged by Police Station No 2 under Sections 6.B, 7.B, 10.B and 11 of the Narcotic Drugs Law in connection with the opium seizure. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 11 Feb 81 p 6 BK]

DRUG SMUGGLING GANG--Rangoon, 6 Feb--Inspector U Tha U of the Crime Prevention Division of Rangoon Division People's Police Force, Station Officer U Kan Myint and police personnel of Hlegu township smashed a gang smuggling drugs into Rangoon and other big cities, arresting seven persons and seizing 51.5 grams

of heroin worth over 10,000 kyat. At 1900 on 2 February, acting on a tipoff that heroin is being sold, police together with witnesses, searched the residence of Myint Lwin, alias Zimbo, 23, on Setyon road, Yedwington, Mingala Taungnyunt township and found 1 gram of heroin and two hypodermic syringes. Maung Myint, 21; Hla Sint, 18 and Maung Saung, alias Aung Thein, 28, of western market ward, Meiktila, who were found at the residence were interrogated. Fifteen empty penicillin bottles used as heroin containers were seized from them. While the search was being conducted, Zaw Zaw, 22, of Shwebontha road, Pabedan township, and Myint Thein, 24, of 27th Street arrived at the house. The two were interrogated and searched and .5 gram of heroin was found on Myint Thein. Maung Saung later confessed that his heroin had been handed over to Maung Aye Tun, a spare driver of truck No Kha/1840 for distribution to Meiktila and other cities. Police found the car in Hlegu township and when the car was searched 10 penicillin bottles, each containing 5 grams of heroin, were found hidden on the truck. The heroin seized was handed over to Hlegu township police station. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 7 Feb 81 p 6 BK]

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HONG KONG

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE STATISTICS--The police vice dragnet resulted in 33,587 raids on illegal gambling establishments, drug divans and vice dens throughout Hongkong last year. A total of 19,845 people were subsequently charged and brought to court on various charges, a police spokesman said yesterday. On the anti-drug front, the spokesman said that 4,741 people were rounded up during 12,972 raids on premises and search operations in the streets. Drug seizures included 40.1 kg of heroin, 16 kg of opium, 139 grams of morphine, 48.7 grams of barbitone and 25.7 grams of cannabis. /Excerpts/ /Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Jan 81 p 22/

CS0: 5320

INDIA

BRIEFS

BRITISH NATIONALS ARRESTED--New Delhi, 24 Feb (AFP)--The narcotic wing of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today claimed it had busted a narcotic ring operating in the Indian capital with the arrest of two British nationals yesterday. Robert John Pavitt and David William Milla were apprehended in front of a hotel here and heroin worth RS one million (about \$125,000) was recovered from their possession, a CBI official said. The trap to nab them was laid following information that they would pass on heroin to an unidentified person. CBI claimed that this was the second biggest catch made by its narcotic wing. In January the wing had seized heroin worth RS eight million (about one million U.S. dollars) in the western port city of Bombay. [Text] [BK241336 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 24 Feb 81]

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INDONESIA

ARTICLES ON DRUG CRIMES, LAW ENFORCEMENT

Light Sentences Criticized

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 26 Dec 80 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Monday--The head of the Police Information Service, Police Brigadier General Drs Darmawan, criticized the fact that law enforcement agencies were not yet speaking with a single voice in fighting narcotics crime in Indonesia. It is feared that the mild nature of sentences imposed by the courts will provide greater opportunity for illegal distribution of drugs in our country.

Answering reporters' questions Saturday afternoon in the police headquarters Press Room, Gen Darmawan Sudarsono said that according to statute no. 9/1976, narcotics crimes in Indonesia are punishable by stiff sentences, death being the maximum penalty for the criminal. Yet, the fact is that up till now those tried and convicted in narcotics cases obtained only light sentences.

He gave the example of the capture on 1 June 1979 of a Singaporean, Lim Teng Phieow, who was carrying 1.9 kg heroin. It turns out he received only a 10-year sentence. At first the public prosecutor wanted the accused to be given the death penalty. But the judge decided on life imprisonment. In the following appeal the Jakarta Appellate Court finally determined that Lim Teng Phieow would be sentenced to only 10 years imprisonment.

There was also another case, the Medan District Court sentencing of Amir Hamzah on 21 June 1980. At that time the accused was discovered carrying 31.7 kg marijuana, but the court sentenced him to only 4 months imprisonment and imposed a fine of 50,000 rupiahs.

Gen Darmawan is of the opinion that the moderate nature of sentences given to those convicted is due to several law enforcement instrumentalities not--or not yet--appreciating the dangers that would arise from narcotics crime. For that reason he considers it necessary for law enforcement agencies to speak with a single voice in fighting narcotics crime

If the illegal distribution of narcotics goes on continually in Indonesia, it is feared that in the future this country can be turned into a zone for drug consumption. Till now, Darmawan said, Indonesia has only been a transit area for illegal drug trafficking. But if this is not quickly checked by stiffening the punishments of those convicted, then it is very possible those fears will be realized, the destruction of Indonesia's younger generation possibly being the result.

According to Police Lieutenant Colonel Sudhiro, an officer of the police headquarters Narcotics Bureau, there are around 34,870 drug addicts in Indonesia. This calculation is based on the available data, that 3,874 drug addicts are registered by the police. Of this confirmable number, 10 percent are repeat offenders.

WHO estimates that when a state has a verifiable number of drug addicts, then the total number of addicts in the country will be 10 times that sum. This UN calculation means that the total number of addicts in Indonesia is 10 times the verifiable number, after subtracting the repeat offenders. Or 3,874 less 387 (recidivists) times 10 is 34,870 addicts.

Gen Darmawan took the opportunity to counter an AFP report that stated there are only 10,000 drug addicts in Indonesia. At the same time the report mentioned that Indonesia is in last position in the number of addicts in ASEAN.

"We are not happy when it is said we have the least number of addicts among ASEAN nations, for we fear that vigilance towards narcotics trafficking could ease up because of the supposed small number of drug addicts in Indonesia," he said to reporters.

The AFP, which quoted a report to the Thai Narcotics Control Board last week, stated that Indonesia has only 10,000 drug addicts and is in last position among ASEAN nations. Further, it was stated that Thailand has 500,000 addicts, followed in turn by Malaysia with 300,000, the Philippines with 15,000, and Singapore with 13,000. Meanwhile in Hong Kong there are 35,000 addicts. Generally, most drug addicts in Asia are under 30.

Forced Addiction

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 29 Dec 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bandung, Sunday--There are indications lately that children of wealthy parents in the city of Bandung have become targets for the city's drug gangs. These children are cruelly forced to become morphine addicts who later are expected to become the customers of the gangs.

According to information that could be gathered by PAB [expansion unknown], the methods these gangs use in forcing their victims to become addicted are similar to criminal practices usually depicted in scenes on the movie screen, like, among others, kidnapping the victims, then forcibly injecting morphine into them.

Em, 16, resident of Haji Kurdi Lane, Bandung, Sunday afternoon was carried off by five youths of his same age riding three motorcycles. Em, who was powerless to act due to the threat of several knives, was taken to a secluded spot in the eastern part of Tegalega, Bandung. This was the place where morphine was forcibly injected into the victim.

Before the victim was abandoned in that delirious state, the gang warned him not to report to the police. But when the victim needed morphine, he could obtain it from one of the gang who would wait in that place--as long as he paid 2,500 rupiahs for each shot.

At the same time also Sar, 18, resident of Sadakeling Street and student at Margaluyu High School, Bandung, was violently set upon by five youths of that gang, who stuffed morphine pills into his mouth.

Of these two victims, only Sar could be rescued from morphine addiction. Now Sar's parents have placed him in a religious boarding school in Suralaya [sic] for recuperation.

Supposedly the number of victims of the Bandung gangs has already reached the hundreds. It is hoped that the authorities will quickly take the matter in hand, so said the victims' parents to PAB.

Drug Arrests

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 29 Dec 80 p 3

[Text] Bengkulu, Sunday--The 621st Police District Command, North Bengkulu, some time ago was able to capture an opium peddler and a marihuana peddler in the city of Bengkulu.

According to the report of the 621st Police District vice commander, Major Edwin, to ANTARA on Friday, the two peddlers of opium and marihuana respectively are RBN, 40, and KYM, 30 [expansions unknown].

First, the District Command picked up the trail of someone named RBN who came to Bengkulu from the island of Bangka carrying 192 kg opium. His intention was to find a market, and he had already repeatedly come to Bengkulu.

After members of the police had set the bait by making a purchase and establishing a mutually agreeable price, the apprehension operation was started, led by the vice commander, Maj Edwin.

He promised to go by taxi to make the exchange near Amarin, Ltd., an obsolete rubber processing plant approximately 10 km from the city of Bengkulu on the way to Curup. There RBN was seized together with the opium he carried, which was brought in as evidence.

The opium was taken to the police headquarters laboratory in Jakarta for analysis, and the results were positive. RBN is still being held in the continuing investigation.

9792

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

BRITISH REPORT ON ANTIDRUG POLICE POWERS TO BE STUDIED

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 7 Feb 81 p 1

[Report from London by Ken Coates]

[Text] New Zealand's Ministry of Justice will be asked to study a new British report recommending tougher police powers for investigating suspected drug offenders to see whether proposals could be of benefit in New Zealand.

The chairman of the Government's Misuse of Drugs committee, Mr Geoffrey Thompson, interviewed near the end of a 10-day visit to Britain, said a report from the royal commission on criminal procedure could be "of considerable interest to us in New Zealand."

He said it deals with police procedures for dealing with those suspected of drug offences.

"It refers to powers of arrest and detection — whether you pull people off the street and detain them while a gang suspected of a drug conspiracy is picked up, or a search is made for drugs," said Mr Thompson.

The recommendations generally strengthened the powers of the police, and made them more consistent.

"With a lot of New Zealand police powers, such as those used in the drugs field, and derived from common law or statute, there is inconsistency as to how far you can go with them. The whole idea seems to be to

simplify procedures so there is a toughening up. Legislation would be involved."

Organised

Mr Thompson, MP for Horowhenua, said he did not know what the British Government's attitude to the recommendations was, as the report had just been presented, but after talks with Home Office officials it seemed as though they would be well received.

After talking to legislators, police and Government officials in Britain and the United States, he notes increasing concern over misuse of prescription drugs.

"This goes beyond pharmacy break-ins, bad prescriptions or even misbehaviour by doctors," he said.

Both countries are increasingly concerned at the growing evidence of well-organised robberies of drug manufacturers or distributors and trading in pills costing a few cents, but which sell on the street for \$8 to \$10 each.

In New Zealand, according to Mr Thompson, barbiturates and amphetamines are sold on the street as a result of doctors' and chemists' being conned, or premises being burgled.

"But 50 percent of our drug problem is misuse of licit drugs and it could get worse because of increased availability.

"I will be looking at security in relation to distributors' and makers' premises, as if there is money in it, you can expect organised crime to be interested."

Mr Thompson investigated the use of heroin for addiction treatment in Britain. He found "it is accepted but declining. The general opinion is that it is not something they would produce as new."

Methadone

There was nothing in Britain that proponents of its use for heroin addicts in New Zealand should seek to

obtain support from, Mr Thompson said.

"They still maintain there is value in a methadone maintenance programme whereas there is little support for this in New Zealand.

At home we seek to introduce a withdrawal programme without drugs which is preferred, whereas here they don't seem to think that this could be sustained."

Mr Thompson describes New Zealand as more open-minded about heroin addiction treatment because it has come to the problem later and learned from other's mistakes.

In Britain and the United States it did not have the same profile as previously and was not seen as such an accelerating and difficult problem.

In New Zealand the problem was serious, but not getting out of hand.

From all sources have come reports of more effective police action against illicit supply of drugs.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

AUTHORITIES FEAR UPSURGE OF HEROIN IMPORTS THIS YEAR

Intelligence Reports Cited

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 4 Feb 81 p 1

/Text/

NEW Zealand could face an upsurge of heroin imports this year.

That is the possibility suggested by the co-ordinator of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau, Detective Inspector Paul Fitzharris.

Speaking at the National Society of Alcohol and Drug Abuse's summer school at Heretaunga today, Mr Fitzharris said intelligence reports from South-east Asia suggested this year's crop of opium could be a bumper one.

"July to October would be the time we could see this being marketed in New Zealand," he said.

It has been estimated that about 600 tonnes were being grown this year, compared with 150 to 200 tonnes last year.

Drought

Mr Fitzharris said that one of the reasons for the drop in seizures and arrests for heroin-related offences since 1979 had been the low South-east Asian output of opium after two successive droughts in the growing areas.

Among other reasons for the drop were:-

- Police pressure on the drug scene.
- Wide publicity about the "Mr Asia" syndicate after the death of Marty Johnstone.
- Increased powers to the police and Customs.
- Higher penalties for drug offences.

Also at the summer school this morning, Government MP Ian McLean, a member of the caucus committee on drugs, called for Court powers to allow forfeiture of the property of convicted drug dealers.

"After any person has been convicted of a serious drug-dealing offence, the onus of proof should be on them to establish which part of their property was earned through legal means, the presumption that the balance is derived from drug dealing."

That procedure would be little different from that already used for income tax, said Mr McLean.

Police, Customs Alerted

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 10 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpts] New Zealand police and customs officers are preparing for a difficult year in the fight against heroin trafficking as the narcotic "harvest" in South-east Asia reaches record levels.

The New Zealand police liaison officer in Thailand, Detective Chief Inspector Brian Duncan, told the Herald from Bangkok yesterday that the huge harvest could spell serious trouble for this country.

Intelligence reports indicated that the raw opium harvest from the region's "golden triangle" would be the biggest for at least three years.

A kilogram of pure heroin — bought for just a few thousand dollars in Bangkok — brings more than \$1 million when diluted and sold on New Zealand streets.

Even if only half of one per cent of the anticipated "golden triangle" harvest this year were landed in New Zealand it would have a street value of well over \$300 million.

The MP for Horowhenua, Mr G. W. F. Thompson, said from Washington that United States narcotics agents were deeply concerned at the implications.

Horrendous

Mr Thompson, who is chairman of the Government caucus committee on the misuse of drugs, is on a study tour of South-east Asia,

Britain, and the United States.

He said the harvest had horrendous implications.

There was an increased threat to New Zealand because the European market was now largely supplied and the extra was likely to come to the Pacific area.

'Brown Rock' Heroin Rumors

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpts]

Fresh supplies of heroin from South-East Asia's "Golden Triangle" will hit the streets of Christchurch before long, drug squad detectives believe.

Part of the record crop of opium in Thailand is already filtering into Hamilton and surrounding areas, where heroin is selling for between \$140 and \$170 a gram.

The head of the Hamilton police drug squad, Detective Sergeant M. Malone, fears a heroin importation problem "of alarming proportions" within the next few months.

The Christchurch drug squad heard rumours recently that "brown rock" heroin was already on Christchurch streets, but found nothing to support the rumours.

"Brown rock" heroin has not been broken down to the stage of becoming a white powder. Too "dirty" for injection into addicts' veins, it is used for smoking and "snorting."

A spokesman for the police Drug Intelligence Bureau, Senior-Sergeant A. M. Letica, said that the heroin problem could escalate throughout New Zealand.

Auckland was the main point of entry for the heroin which had surfaced in Hamilton, but the narcotic was imported in many other ways, including through South Island ports.

Senior-Sergeant Letica said that police drug squads were stepping up surveillance of known drug users.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

POLICE EXPECT LARGE CANNABIS HARVEST SOON

Appeal to Public

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 16 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

Cannabis growers will soon start to reap their illicit harvest in the riverbeds and forests of Canterbury and it is likely to be a record season.

The cultivation of "pot plantations" had reached an unprecedented scale and level of sophistication, said the officer in charge of the Christchurch police drug squad, Detective Senior-Sergeant M. J. Muddiman, yesterday.

Some of the commercial growing ventures would yield cannabis worth many thousands of dollars to drug dealers after it had been processed and packaged.

The police knew that some of the money made by growing cannabis for supply was used to finance big deals in "hard" drugs.

The cannabis is expected to reach maturity in the next few weeks.

Detective Senior-Sergeant Muddiman said that the police were most concerned about the scale and sophistication of the growing ventures in Canterbury and on the West Coast and were keen to enlist the aid of the public in finding plants and growers.

Most of the plots were off the beaten track and were well concealed among other foliage. They were sometimes stumbled on by people such as picnickers, campers, fishermen, and farmers.

Detective Senior-Sergeant Muddiman appealed for anybody who found cannabis in country areas to report it to the nearest police station as soon as possible. Any information would be treated in the strictest confidence. The police would appreciate even an anonymous telephone call.

Members of the public could help drug squads by noting the registration numbers of cars parked in remote areas — the plants had to be watered regularly — and by noting the descriptions of people seen nearby.

Anybody who found a cannabis plot in a riverbed or in the bush should leave the plants and try to make a sketch map of the area. Several times detectives had gone out in search of plantations but had been unable to find them using verbal descriptions alone.

The beds of the Ashley, Selwyn, Rakaia, and Wai-

makariri rivers were favourite spots for growers.

The biggest plot found recently had been one on the West Coast near Ku-mara, where detectives had seized 1400 plants in early December last year.

Many plots of between 200 and 400 plants had been discovered in Canterbury.

"One plant can have a street value of up to \$400, depending on its size," said Detective Senior-Sergeant Muddiman.

Growers used some sophisticated methods to avoid detection of their crops. The police had had much success in spotting the distinctive bright-green cannabis plants from helicopters and light aircraft and some growers had resorted to using green bird netting to camouflage their plantations from above.

Some plots were surrounded by chicken wire to keep out opossums, which apparently regarded cannabis as a delicacy.

One of the most sophisticated ventures had been found in the Rolleston area where the grower had drilled a well and installed a pump to provide regular watering for

his crop.

Some growers were cultivating smaller plots, scattered up to 100 metres apart, in their efforts to evade detection.

In some cases trail motor-cycles were used to travel up riverbeds and into remote areas where cars could not go.

The police were keen to hear from farmers or others who saw anybody carrying a watering-can, a hoe, wire, or any such equipment in remote areas.

"Country store-keepers who sell fertiliser, chicken mesh, and so on to a stranger must have a fair idea what is going on but unfortunately some members of the public seem a little reluctant to get in touch with us," said Detective Senior-Sergeant Muddiman. "We are glad to hear from anyone, whether the information turns out to be right or not."

Detective Senior-Sergeant Muddiman said that anybody who came across

cannabis should be able to recognise it easily, apart from the cultivated ground.

The plant could grow two metres or more high but was usually shorter. It was a distinctive bright green, brighter than most New Zealand flora, and had narrow, pointed, serrated-edge leaves which grew in odd-numbered clumps.

Smaller Plots Grown

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

Marijuana growers are cultivating smaller plots in their efforts to outwit policemen.

Detectives in Whangarei and Hamilton say that growers seem to hope that smaller plantations dotted around the countryside will escape detection.

There are indications that growers of the drug will reap a bumper harvest around New Zealand in the next month or two.

Detective Sergeant John Carr, the head of the Whangarei drug squad, said yesterday that in recent weeks his officers had found dozens of 20 to 30-plant plots — instead of the normal 300-plant plots — round Northland.

The smaller plots were being spread around, making them harder to find.

Detective Kerry Hodgson, of the Hamilton drug squad, said that marijuana growers were tending not "to put all their eggs in one basket" by having all their plants in one spot.

He said that some planters seemed so worried about police in helicopters finding their illicit crops that they had resorted to camouflage, with green-painted fences and netting.

The police had noted an apparent trend to plant their marijuana seeds in the bush rather than scattered in maize crops.

Like their northern counterparts, Hamilton detectives had found dozens of plots around the Waikato in recent weeks.

Mr Carr said there had been an upsurge in the demand for cannabis seeds.

The trend was to "grow

your own." Police in Northland had arrested many people who were unemployed and were supplementing their income by growing marijuana.

The northern half of the North Island is not the only area where cannabis is flourishing.

Police recently uncovered a 1400-plant crop on the West Coast of the South Island and a further 1000 plants near Dunedin.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

HARD DRUGS BEING IMPORTED THROUGH MAIL

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 7 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Hard drugs are being imported into New Zealand through the mail.

Police and customs officers are struggling to control the mail drug traffic, which is a worldwide problem.

The Customs Department has had one of its busiest weeks for intercepting LSD and DMA — both class A controlled drugs — in incoming mail.

DMA, an amphetamine, is similar to LSD — both produce hallucinations.

Hallucinogenic drugs are very powerful — and easy to conceal.

The medical superintendent of Oakley Hospital, Dr P. P. E. Savage, said an amount similar to a micro-dot put on a piece of paper the size of a soap flake would be enough to produce effects.

Six arrests have been made this week in connection with the importation of hallucinogenic drugs. The norm is two a week.

The chief customs investigations officer, Mr Stuart Hartley, said that more drugs than before are being sent by mail.

The drugs are being posted as sheets of paper impregnated with LSD and DMA, and "tickets," which are about a third of the size of a 5c piece.

Impregnated

But many other drugs — including heroin, cocaine and cannabis — are coming through the mail.

Police and customs are not finding it easy to fight the mail traffic.

One customs officer told the Herald that his department caught only a small percentage of mailed drugs — perhaps less than one-third.

Detective Inspector Paul Fitzharris, the co-ordinator of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau in Wellington, said mail was a major method of drug importation, particularly of the LSD-type drug.

American

Almost all the LSD and DMA was coming from America, he said.

Sometimes the drugs arrive unsolicited, but deliveries were usually planned.

"We have found people who have organised quite a series of consignments," Mr Fitzharris said.

"The quantity is not important when you compare it with the amount people bring in at airports, but the deliveries have to be small because of their nature."

Police have quietened

down the drug scene, and heroin is far scarcer — arrests for possession are down about 80 per cent on last year.

But Mr Fitzharris said that any increase of mailed LSD and DMA was probably not related. "We are talking about different drugs from different parts of the world. You cannot equate the two."

The police say the mailed drug tickets can be sold on the street for between \$5 and \$10.

Cannabis sticks cost 10c in Thailand. They are sold here for \$15.

Hashish sells here for \$7000 a kilogram. It can be bought in Nepal for \$350.

Mr Hartley said he was pleased with the amount being detected — particularly as there was a limited number of staff and it was difficult to recognise the sheets or tickets.

The "paper" drugs can be

felt, or picked up by x-ray machine.

Customs officers and drug dogs are based at the Chief Post Office at Auckland.

Recognition

They sort through incoming mail and rely on touch, the dogs' sense of smell, x-rays, or just recognising a name and address on a letter.

They are not allowed to open first-class mail, by which most of the drugs are sent. If the officers are sure a letter contains drugs, they must seize it from the Post Office.

If drugs are found, a warrant is prepared to search the recipient's address.

The drugs go to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for analysis. They are destroyed by the Health Department after the court case.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

HEROIN SUPPLIERS SEEN BEHIND ARMED ROBBERY INCREASE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 14 Jan 81 p 14

[Excerpt] Wellington (Press Association)--The shooting of Petone publican Mr Rick Bullock has introduced a trend police have feared since they successfully quietened down the New Zealand drug scene in 1979.

Criminals and drug addicts who had an easy life during the prosperous years of the Christopher Johnstone drug syndicate and other groups are now desperate for money to sustain either lifestyle, drug habit or both.

This is the view of the head of the Wellington robbery squad, Detective Inspector Rangi Rangihika, who says robberies have given these groups the access to money.

As heroin availability has become increasingly small, with arrests for possession in Wellington down 80 per cent on last year, these groups of criminals have become desperate.

Best Wine

Mr Rangihika says criminals in the good drug years were used to having \$900 to \$1000 a week to live on.

That money, up from about \$500 in 1975, was just for living expenses.

"Anything fancy — like buying cars — was on top of that," according to Mr Rangihika.

"Some of these guys used to think nothing of going to a fancy restaurant and spending \$500, shouting their mates the best wine."

Bills

Mr Rangihika recalls visiting one heroin dealer's house and finding 12 suitcases full of leather jackets and fur coats which the dealer and his girlfriend had bought, worn once or twice and discarded.

Inside one of the coat pockets he found a \$100 note, forgotten.

That was when the money was good and the heroin plentiful.

Now there is little heroin, but the criminals still maintain the lifestyle, and many also maintain the drug habit.

The little heroin around does not go far enough to cover both the habit and, through reselling, to pay the bills.

Costs are not covered, and there is pressure from the major suppliers to "pay or else" — "and the 'else' is in capitals," Mr Rangihika says.

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

NARCOTICS CONTROL LAW TO BE PROMULGATED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Feb 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Narcotic Control"]

[Text]

THAT a comprehensive narcotics control law is soon to be promulgated to eliminate the confusion that multiple legislation in the form of four Prohibition Ordinances, a Prohibition Act and a dozen or so of other Acts on the subjects, will be widely welcomed. Most of these laws have been lopsided leading to the award of equal punishment to persons in possession of tons of opium and those found to be carrying a gram of the abhorrent stuff. If effectively implemented with due measure of discrimination between clandestine wholesalers of narcotics and the casual consumers of stupefying drugs, and promoters of the business are subjected to exemplary penalties commensurate with the magnitude of their crime, it should be possible to rectify the imbalance that had existed in the previous regulations. Besides, the law, now on the anvil, will also have to evolve a fool-proof system to net racketeers who have been building up fabulous fortunes through organised smuggling of charas, hashish, marijuana and the more sophisticated and proportionately more lethal heroin.

Widespread addiction to narcotics within the country has been undermining the health of those given to these drugs. That some young men and even youthful girls in their teens from the higher echelons of our social set up have been visiting friendly pharmaceutical establishments for shots of morphine is too well known to warrant mention. As these drugs are habit-forming, it is difficult to wean the addicts away by mere persuasion on an individual basis or even by repeatedly publicising the deleterious effects of the many narcotics and their by-products. If total prohibition of the more common narcotic like opium is ordered and strictly enforced, as was done some time earlier, it may result in fatalities of those addicted to it for a number of years. It may be recalled that when a complete ban was placed on it and addicts hospitalised for grievous illness on account of withdrawal symptoms because of its non-availability, they began to die. Thereafter, opium was supplied to hospitals to be administered in small doses to be gradually made smaller and smaller with the passage of time till the addict overcame the habit.

Periodical reports appearing in the Press to convey the happy tidings that vigilant Excise officials had successfully trapped smugglers of narcotics and recovered massive quantities of such contraband stuff may have sounded overly encouraging on every such occasion. But that does not however prove that every attempt at smuggling was foiled. The misfortune that corruption is rampant in the land – as the surprise raid on the Islamabad airport the other day to conduct personal check of the Customs Staff on duty clearly indicated – the possibility of officials being made to shut their eyes in return for graft cannot be overruled. The legislation now being contemplated will also have to provide stringent penalties for those who show indulgence not only to smugglers but also to dealers in narcotics.

The correlation between drugs and crime is universally acknowledged. In America, increase in the number of robberies in recent years has been attributed to widespread drug addiction. Other countries of the world like Malaysia, Singapore and Japan have also held that drug addicts often take to crimes of various descriptions unmindful of consequences. With his power of reasoning sapped while in a state of stupefaction, a man is likely to commit crimes which he normally will not have committed when sober. It is fervidly hoped that the formulators of the new law on narcotics will bear all factors in mind and take every necessary step to ensure its total implementation. The legislation will have to be wholly free from every conceivable loophole.

CS0: 5300

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

SMUGGLING ATTEMPT FOILED--One hundred and twenty kilogram charas worth Rs.3 lakh was seized by the Baghbanpura Police on Tuesday. The charas would have cost Rs. 10 crore in foreign market, if smuggled abroad. Two persons, Shabbir and Nazir of Misri Shah were arrested. The charas packed in exportable carpets was being transported in a rehra for booking at the Moghalpura Dry Port. The police intercepted the rehra at Bund Road and seized the carpets and contraband charas concealed in it. The police were also looking for one Hafiz Khan, a carpet manufacturer at Fateh Garh, Moghalpura, the owner and sender of the carpets. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 81 p 5]

CHARAS SEIZED--CIA staff seized 60 kilograms of charas worth Rs. two lakh from an under-construction house in New Garden Town on Wednesday. Three persons, Mushtaq of Shahdara and Gul Nabi and Gul Rehman involved in the trafficking of charas from tribal areas were arrested. Cases have been registered against these persons under the Prohibition of Narcotics Act. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 81 p 3]

OPIUM SEIZED- Contraband opium weighing about 100 kilos was seized by an Excise Police party in a lightning raid on Bara Market on Super Highway yesterday morning. An Afghan national, identified as Nazar (35), told the raiding party after his arrest that he had brought the opium stacked in gunny bags for purposes of "export" to Egypt. The value of the opium is assessed to be about Rs. one million (Rs. six million in the street market abroad). Further investigations are underway. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 Feb 81 p 6]

CSO: 5300

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

BENGUET MARIHUANA PLANTATION DESTROYED--Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Feb. 16--
A newly-harvested marijuana farm situated atop a mountain at barangay Napsong, Kibungan, Benguet was destroyed by government agents recently, it was announced. The discovery of the two-hectare illegal plantation came after the seizure by a joint Constabulary anti-narcotics unit (CANU), Baguio and Benguet PC-INP and the Finance Ministry intelligence bureau (FMIB) of 3,500 full grown marijuana plants at the foot of the mountain. FMIB "Task Force Claw" commander, M/Sgt. Vic Amoto told Commissioner Pelagio A. Cruz that they suspected another marijuana farm elsewhere after they stumbled upon a creek coming from the mountain. The same team scaled the rough and treacherous mountain terrain until they found the farm which was supposedly harvested of the prohibited crop.--(Sel Baysa) [Text]
[Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 17 Feb 81 p 11]

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

AIR RAID ON GANJA PLANTATION

Colombo SUN in English 16 Feb 81 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ranil Weerasinghel]

[Text]

Two million rupees worth of cannabis sativa (ganja) has been uprooted and destroyed in the first two days of a massive joint operation carried out in the Galge area by the Police and the Air Force.

Operation Airlift which got underway on Friday morning commenced with the detection from the air of a concentration of seven ganja chenas situated in thick animal infested jungle on the border of the Yala sanctuary.

Within hours of the rescue operation Fl. Lt. Sunil Cabraal and Pilot Officer Roger Weerasinghe had completed over 20 sorties to land and drop over 50 officers and men in the chenas.

The teams led by ASP Narcotics Hema Weerasinghe and Matara SP G. B. Dissanaike had by Saturday completed the task of uprooting and burning over 200,000 plants in the chenas.

The seizure estimated at around 20,000 pounds has a street value of two million rupees at the prevailing prices.

The lightning offensive against the cannabis cultivators in what has been termed Sri Lanka's ganja belt was launched

by the Inspector General of Police Anura Kumara Senarathne following last week's rescue of five officers lost in this same area while on a raid on a ganja plantation.

Although no arrests have been made the police teams have come across a number of hastily abandoned shelters and nurseries. These included a watch hut in which items of clothing and provisions were found abandoned. This watch hut had been canopied with green plastic sheeting in an apparent effort to avoid detection from the air.

The two air force pilots who have completed over 110 sorties in the two days have not only airlifted and brought out the team but also kept them supplied with food and water.

According to Fl. Lt. Oliver Guruge who was in charge of co-ordinating the ground and aerial operation the flying by his two fellow Air Force officers was of an exceptionally high standard.

This point was driven home as the pilots took off from atop a rocky outcrop and then descended to drop us in a chena. The landing zone at this site

was virtually the size of a billiard table and made all that more dangerous by the burnt and charred trees around it.

The pilots suffered several heart stopping moments when on take off they found that the belly of the chopper had been holed by a stump. This was noted only after the chopper had climbed back into the air with the uprooted stump. Following emergency repair work the red and white chopper was once more back in the air, ferrying the men and equipment back and forth.

In view of the success of the two day operation the Inspector General of Police has directed that the operation be continued and has rushed the Police para military unit, the task force, into the area.

The original helicopter used in the first two days of operation has been sent back for rehauling and a replacement sent in its place.

The units engaged in the operations have been assisted by the Galge game ranger J. A. Weerasinghe while Hambantota District Judge Cyril Hunukumbura was flown into the area of operation to view the exercise.

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

TASK FORCE DESTROYS GANJA

Colombo SUN in English 17 Feb 81 p 1

[Article by Ranil Weerasinghe]

[Text]

"Operation Airlift" entered its second phase yesterday with Police reinforcements including their para military striking unit the Task Force moving in to assist in the intensified operations.

The red and white Bell Jet-Ranger of the Air Force which had returned to Katunayake for overhauling on Saturday was once more back in the area lifting the men to the new fields of ganja discovered following reconnaissance operations conducted in the morning.

One of the chenas visited had already been harvested although the ganja had not been removed.

Several bags of this narcotic were found by the Police stacked away on tree tops.

As the crackdown on the ganja gathered momentum a

further hundred handpicked officers and men had been placed in readiness by Eastern Range DIG Leo Perera, to help in the raids.

According to Mr. Perera in raids conducted prior to "Operation Airlift" several million rupees worth of ganja had been seized in his range over the past two months. Over hundred persons had also been arrested by Police who had carried out raids in the jungles of Wellawaya, Pottuvil, Bibile and Maha-Oya.

Meanwhile Police stations in the surrounding areas have been alerted to look out for attempts being made to move the harvested ganja out of this area.

This alert came after the Embilipitiya Police detected 20 bags, weighing 1224 pounds while it was being brought to Colombo.

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

SWISS ARRESTED WITH NARCOTICS--Trincomalee--A young Swiss woman who was attracted by the charms of a young man disclosed to him a secret little realising that the charming young man with a fixed smile was a police officer. Sub-Inspector Upali Kumarasinghe, who had his suspicion about the female tourist cultivated her acquaintance and was not surprised when she asked for his help to dispose of the hashish and ganja she had with her. She wanted Rs. 7000 for the lot but he offered her Rs. 5000. When the deal was to be clinched, instead of giving her the money he flashed his police identity card. The tourist, Miss Hanna Hanziker, was produced before the Sub-Collector of Customs K.K. Subramaniam who, after further investigations produced the suspect before Mr N. Pathmanathan. Additional Collector of Customs, Trincomalee, who fined her Rs. 3000 for possessing 28 grams of hashish and 312½ grammes of ganja, which were forfeited. Sub-Inspector Kumarasinghe was also responsible for the arrest of German tourist Gunther Ernst Czizikowski who was in possession of 235 grains of ganja. He was produced before the Trincomalee Magistrate V.P. Sunderalingam and fined Rs. 200. [Text] [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 13 Feb 81 p 5]

HASHISH OVERDOSE--A young Italian woman suffering from an overdoes of hashish has been warded at the General Hospital Colombo, Police said yesterday. The woman was picked up by patrolling policemen on Wednesday and produced at the Borella Police Women's Bureau, as she was behaving in an odd manner and had been intoxicated, Police said. Taken to hospital and questioned, she is reported to have admitted that she had taken hashish. She is presently receiving treatment in Ward 47 of the General Hospital. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 20 Feb 81 p 3]

WEST GERMAN HELD--A West German national was taken into custody by the Trincomalee Police in connection with the alleged possession of 235 grams of hashish. He was produced before the Trincomalee Magistrate who remanded him till February 6. [Text] [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 7 Feb 81 p 1]

GANJA PLANTS DETECTED--Pottuvil Police have detected over one lakh of illegally cultivated ganja plants in the thick jungles of Henda-Oya on Saturday, police said. Over 50,000 plants were produced at the Police Station. Police said one person has been taken in for questioning. The detection was made by the OIC of the Pottuvil Police, a Sergeant and six PC's. [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 5 Feb 81 p 5]

SWISS NATIONAL HELD--A Swiss national who had in her possession 28 grams of hashish and 312 grains of Cannabis was arrested by the Trincomalee police on Saturday. She was produced before the Customs and fined Rs 3,000. She has been detained pending payment of the fine. [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 9 Feb 81 p 1]

POSSESSION OF GANJA--Three young men, who were alleged to have carried three parcels containing 117,124 grains of ganja, were taken into custody by a police party led by Sergeant Samarakoon of Galagedera police recently. The police produced the young men and charged them with possessing ganja before the Kandy Magistrate Mr V. Mapa. All three pleaded guilty. The magistrate ordered the police to destroy the productions and the culprits were fined. [Text] [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 9 Feb 81 p 7]

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

BUENOS AIRES DRUG BUST--Five members of an international drug trafficking organization have been arrested by the federal police during a raid on a downtown Buenos Aires Hotel. Five kg of pure cocaine was found in their possession. It was established that the traffickers controlled the movement of cocaine from Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia, to the United States. The names of the arrested traffickers have not been disclosed, but they are Colombian and Uruguayan citizens and one of them is a woman. [PY242011 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Feb 81 p 16 PY]

CS0: 5300

BAHAMAS

RENEWED CALL FOR REFORM OF BAIL SYSTEM FOR DRUG SUSPECTS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 p 5

[Article by Etienne Dupuch]

[Excerpts] One of the many activities that is now destroying the whole character of the Bahamas is the unchecked traffic in drugs in our islands. This has been going on for a long time, but it has now reached a point where Prime Minister Pindling recently took panic.

He tried to blame America for this activity and requested aid in the sum of \$25 million to clean up the situation. It was later revealed that some time earlier the US government had offered to use the facilities of its Drug Enforcement Department to clean up the situation in the islands. The government did not take up this offer...apparently they wanted Uncle Sam to put the money in their hands to do the job!

Around this same time the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands was visiting Nassau. He told THE TRIBUNE that they had had a serious drug problem in the Turks that the US Drug Enforcement Department had cleaned up for them in a very short time.

How serious is government about cleaning up the drug traffic in these islands?

So far it seems they have done little to tighten up on the situation. They have not taken any steps to stop men engaged in this trade from being granted bail in the courts. Indeed, many feel that bail collected from dope smugglers is now a calculated part of the public revenue!

I get the impression that there is a great deal of hypocrisy in this whole affair... a lot of talk, but no action. The government is too busy trying to drive foreigners out of the Bahamas so that they can get control of their lands and their businesses that they have no time to think about a small thing like dope smuggling.

Attorney Ortlund J. Bodie Jr made a profound statement on the danger of the drug traffic when Magistrate Van Sertima recently refused bail for three Bahamians charged with multiple crimes of violence. He protested that "a Colombian will get bail for drugs which could kill a whole nation, but a Bahamian cannot get bail."

It is interesting to know that he is aware of the danger of the traffic in drugs, but it is difficult to reconcile this statement with the fact that he is probably more active than any other members of the Bahamas Bar in trying to get Colombian drug smugglers off the hook!

One of the few persons in an official capacity in court circles who seems serious about doing something positive to check the drug traffic is Mrs J. Henry Bostwick. When she was recently sitting on the bench as an Acting Magistrate she refused bail for six men charged with smuggling drugs.

The lawyer representing the alleged smugglers appealed her ruling to a Supreme Court Justice who overruled her decision and released the men on a bail of \$12,000 each. This will probably be another \$72,000 for Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna's revenue calculations!

I know that I have printed Mrs Bostwick's observation on the drug traffic in this column only recently but it is a declaration of fact that needs to be printed over and over again until some definite action is taken by government to clean up the situation.

I will believe that the government is seriously concerned about cleaning up the traffic in dope and stopping piracy in Bahamian waters when legislation is passed refusing bail to dope traffickers and making the penalty so severe that it would act as a deterrent to drug activities in the Bahamas.

CSO: 5300

BAHAMAS

FIVE ARRESTED IN BIMINI, GRANTED \$20,000 BAIL EACH

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Bail in the sum of \$100,000 was granted to five men arrested in Bimini Thursday when their DC-3 aircraft landed there allegedly loaded with marijuana and cocaine.

The two Americans and three Cuban Americans, arraigned before Magistrate George Van Sertima yesterday, were arrested at 2.45 am Thursday by Sgt Fyne and several other policemen, lying in ambush at the Bimini airport, when a quantity of drugs and the DC-3 aircraft were seized shortly after it landed.

Jose Camino, 20, Raul Pal, 28, Primitivo Preez, 38, Allan Kaiman, 38, and John Johnson, 53, were charged with possession of two blocks of hashish weighing three and a half pounds and possession with intent to supply.

They were further charged with possession of thirty three and a half pounds of cocaine at South Bimini on January 8, and possession with intent to supply.

Camino, Pal, Preez, Kaiman and Johnson were also charged with possession of 73 plastic boxes containing marijuana and possession with intent to supply.

The men pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The court prosecutor did not object to bail, but said, "I would have liked to have been in a position to object to bail but the court calendar so dictates that we cannot afford the defendants early dates for trial."

Instead he asked Magistrate Van Sertima to set bail at a substantial amount considering the large quantity of drugs with which the men were charged. The prosecutor asked for bail to be set at no less than \$25,000 cash for each defendant, and added that there should be no question on the part of the defendants if bail was set at this amount.

Lawyer Arlington Butler, representing all five defendants, argued about bail set at this sum however, saying he had hoped the sum would be slightly less and in any event, the sum should be one that is not impossible.

Bail was granted in the sum \$20,000 cash each and trial was set for July 8.

CSO: 5300

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA SEIZURE AT SEA--About \$112 million worth of marihuana--the largest to be seized at sea--was picked up by HMBS Marlin off the Berry Islands at midnight Monday. Thirteen Colombians have been arrested. The Ministry of Defence, in an official press release, said "Cordoba" was heading for land to make a cargo transfer when she was seized by Marlin about two and a half miles off Little Stirrup Bay in the northern Berry Islands. [Excerpt] [FL211605 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Feb 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300

BARBADOS

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR STRICT POLICE CONTROL OF DRUGS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Jan 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Profits From Drugs Are Very Tempting"]

[Text]

Our Customs men have to be congratulated on the vigilance they have been displaying in ferreting out attempts to bring drugs, especially marijuana, into the island. Within recent months the Customs men have managed to foil a number of efforts, some bordering on genius, to boost the growing drugs market in the country. It is one thing to be able to keep an eye on or trace the local pushers and growers of cannabis. It is a lot more challenging to be able to stop drugs from coming into the island at the various points of entry.

The challenge is two-fold. It demands sharpness on the part of our Customs men while encouraging the pushers to attempt ways and means of negating that sharpness. Part of the crux of the problem is that there is money to be made in pushing drugs. There will always be people willing to take the chance of not being caught. And this raises another matter.

It is whether or not we have a tight enough system to ensure that after our Customs men manage to ferret out the drugs these same drugs do not somehow manage to find their way back on the market. After the drugs are turned over to the police nothing more is heard of them after the due process of law has had a chance to operate. The usual practice is that the drugs in the possession and custody of the police should be destroyed. But this has not always been as simple an operation as we might imagine.

Myriad are the cases where drugs the police had in custody at some stage in a number of countries eventually ended up on the street without anyone being able to say exactly what went wrong or who should take the blame. In fact, so embarrassing can be the circumstances at times that the police are themselves most reluctant to give any details about

how the drugs might have been spirited away.

When, however it becomes known that somewhere along the line drugs in the custody or possession of the police have ended up on the street, the inevitable scandal breaks. The question we must therefore ask ourselves is whether we in Barbados have managed to come up with a system that will prevent that kind of scandal in our country.

Not so long ago, for example the New York Police were not able to explain how several kilos of heroin with a street value to US\$1 million had disappeared from one of their precincts. Nearer to home there was also the charge that policemen in Port-of-Spain were unable to account for a quantity of cannabis known to have been in their possession. Here in Barbados rumours have filtered through from time to time but we do not get the impression that these are taken seriously.

However there is need for reassurance about our system since more and more supplies of drugs are finding their way into police custody. It would be most ironic if our Customs men through their diligence have managed to put what might be regarded as a number of dents in what can seem to be the impervious structure of an international drugs racket, only to find that complacency at home leads to these drug supplies finding their way back on the market by an even more subtle route.

What we have to bear in mind at all times is that the street value and demand for drugs remain high. Added to this, it is no secret that with our expanding tourism there are many people now coming to our shores with "the habit" not to mention those who are local consumers. The growing drug culture in the island is a problem. The money to be made remains a heavy temptation. We need say no more.

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BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN--Leaders of the Bolivian National Peasant Workers Confederation [CNTCB] have instructed all their constituents to avoid all contact with drug traffickers. CNTCB representatives asserted in a document that they will cooperate at all times with the members of the armed forces to exterminate the drug traffickers. Another paragraph says that the peasant class gives strong and determined support to the measures taken by the supreme government to combat drug trafficking. The struggle will be hard, but we feel certain that we Bolivian peasants will win the final battle together with the armed forces, the document concludes. [Text] [PY240230 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Feb 81]

ARMED FORCES FIGHTING TRAFFICKERS--La Paz, 18 Feb (AFP)--The Bolivian Government has announced that the National Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances, an organization in charge of fighting drug addiction, is now under the jurisdiction of the armed forces. The Interior Ministry, which has had jurisdiction over the control of drug traffick, released the resolution transferring this responsibility to military units of the entire nation for the control and repression of illegal marketing and production of dangerous substances. President Luis Garcia Meza announced last week that the armed forces have declared an all-out war on national and international rings of drug traffickers. [Text] [PY191305 Paris AFP in Spanish 1421 GMT 18 Feb 81]

MINISTER'S PLEA AGAINST DRUGS--La Paz, 17 Feb (LATIN)--The Bolivian Air Force (FAB) today called on the people to report drug traffic activities so they can be repressed and eliminated "no matter who may fall." The FAB command today released the text of the speech delivered yesterday by the air minister, Gen Waldo Bernal Pereyra, at the inauguration of a military institute's academic year. General Bernal, who is also FAB commander, restated and confirmed the intervention of the Bolivian Armed Forces in the repression of drug traffic, considered one of the "worst ills" affecting the country. Gen Luis Garcia Meza, chief of state and army commander, last Friday ordered armed forces intervention in fighting drug traffic. The air force commander labeled a "duty" the actions to be carried out against "this apocalyptic scourge." He justified the military intervention "because the police efforts to fight these criminals, armed better than ever, were not sufficient." He reported that the processing and trafficking of drugs in Bolivia are "supported from abroad with large capital and amazing means of communications to move, armed, by surface and air." He went on to say that "the whole contingent" of the armed forces will be used "to defend and preserve national honor." General Bernal said that "every officer must consider himself a guard and fighter "in the struggle against the drug traffic." [Excerpt] [PY191556 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2326 GMT 17 Feb 81]

COCAINE SEIZURE--The Chuquisaca Prefect has reported that the police have seized 82 kilograms of cocaine base in Monteagudo, 350 kilometers from Sucre. He said that this is the largest amount of cocaine seized in Chuquisaca. Several drug traffickers have been arrested but their names were not given. The cocaine was deposited in the State Bank. [PY242011 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 81 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED--La Paz, 24 Feb (LATIN)--The armed forces have reported that they were able to break up two rings of drug traffickers and seize 20 kilograms of cocaine in two operations, one in the Titicaca Lake area and the other in Santa Cruz Department. The commander of the Tarapaca regiment reported in La Paz that it has arrested 16 individuals and discovered a cocaine factory in Achacachi, seizing 20 kilograms of cocaine. The chief of army intelligence also announced that during a confrontation with drug traffickers in Santa Cruz, one soldier was killed and another wounded. [PY251154 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0222 GMT 25 Feb 81 PY]

BOLIVIAN, PERUVIAN COCA LEAF--La Paz, 23 Feb (AFP)--A report published here today by the Commission for the Fight Against Drugs states that Bolivia and Peru produce 100 percent of the coca leaves from which cocaine is extracted. The report adds that the coca leaf is legally cultivated in the two countries, which leads to an ever larger production. It is said that attempts to justify this legal status are made both in Peru and Bolivia with the argument that coca is used as a sedative agent to control the appetite, a stimulant and an antidote to the effects of altitude. The commission admits that those arguments are true to a certain point, because two-thirds of the population, specifically in Bolivia, are poor and undernourished. It clearly states, however, that while Bolivia needs only 6,000 tons per year for the consumption of its farmhands and mineworkers, it is producing over 25,000 tons, explaining that the balance is used by the cocaine manufacturers. The commission says that this fact led to a 1,400-percent increase in the price of coca leaf in the last 2 years, so that its cost has become prohibitive for the Bolivian poor classes. [Text] [PY240014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1524 GMT 23 Feb 81]

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BRAZIL

BRIEFS

RESULTS OF ANTIDRUG OPERATION--A number of Bolivian citizens were arrested at (Corumbao) airport when they were caught carrying 5 kg of cocaine. This arrest was carried out under the "Carnival Operation" by federal police on the Brazilian borders, which has already resulted in the seizing of 23 kg of cocaine and other drugs. [PY221825 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Feb 81]

BOLIVIA-BRAZIL-ITALY DRUG CONNECTION--With the arrest of three cocaine traffickers, the Sao Paulo Federal Police have discovered a new international drug trafficking route: Bolivia-Sao Paulo-Rome. The police arrested Brazilian Joao Magalhaes da Silva in a downtown hotel in Sao Paulo. He is the owner of one of the largest cocaine refineries in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia. They also arrested Bolivians Carmen Tapia de Fernandez and Rubens Flores Roman and seized 3 kg of cocaine, estimated worth 12 million cruzeiros. Magalhaes said that Tapia de Fernandez and Flores Roman would travel to Rome to show a kg of cocaine-base to Italian traffickers who are very much interested in cocaine. The cocaine was brought to Sao Paulo in plastic bags taped to the legs and stomachs of the traffickers. The police also announced the arrest of Bolivians (Luis Arias Gimenez) and (Carlos Campelo Gimenez) and of Brazilian student (Arthuro Ribeiro Tonante), 22. They were carrying 101 grams of cocaine. In Santos the police arrested (Ivo Alberto Danillei) who was carrying cocaine estimated worth 100,000 cruzeiros, which was to be sold during the carnival celebrations. [PY242011 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 81 PY]

POLICE SEIZE COCAINE--During the past 20 days the Mato Grosso Do Sul Federal Police have seized more than 24 kg of pure cocaine in Corumba and Campo Grande. So far the largest amount seized was 13 kg at Corumba airport, but the trafficker managed to get away from the police. Another 4.8 kg of pure cocaine was seized at the same airport. It was being carried by two Bolivian couples who were leaving for Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. [PY251157 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Feb 81 p 6 PY]

CSO: 5300

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

1980 DRUG HAUL FIGURES--Narcotics and crime prevention officials seized drugs worth 532 million colones during 1980, according to an official report. The report said that coordination with Interpol allowed the dismantling of a drug traffic connection in Costa Rica. [San Jose Radio RELOJ in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 81 PA]

CSO: 5300

CUBA

BOLIVIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS CALLED POWER BEHIND THRONE

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Nov 80 p 2

[Article by Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] Roberto Suarez, Alfredo "Kutuchi" Gutierrez and Jorge Nallar are the visible heads of the three principal groups controlling the narcotics traffic in Bolivia under the orders of the international mafia.

A revealing report published in the Peruvian magazine MARKA last August exposes all the maneuvers of the military men who have taken over that Andean country, where coups d'etat are almost a national sport.

And it is interesting to find that semicolonial dependency still holds sway in the sordid world of the narcotics traffickers, through powerful ties which cross several countries to converge in the world center of that traffic: the United States.

MARKA's revelations unfold a story which could very well become the script for one of those films that producers make from time to time to exploit the sensational aspects of that criminal traffic, of which tens of thousands of people in several countries, especially children and youth, are the victims. Before the Bolivian coup d'etat headed by Luis Garcia Meza, the so-called "San Javier operation" was organized and carried out by the Santa Cruz Division of Narcotics under the command of Police Major Carlos Fernandez Navarro. San Javier is a village located in the eastern part of Santa Cruz, where there are two big ranches belonging to Hugo Banzer and Widen Razuk. Those ranches, supposedly, are for raising cattle, and since they are quite far removed from the traditional coca-producing zones, they have never been connected with the drug traffic.

It was, then, a surprise when men from the Narcotics Division appeared in the area.

And not only did they appear: they had an armed confrontation with the traffickers, and took by surprise two aircraft--one of them Colombian--which were transporting cocaine and seized the drugs after taking over several houses located on Banzer's ranch.

On this occasion it became obvious that some air force officers were implicated in the traffic and that the people working with them were using military uniforms, which made it easy for them to cover their movements.

Curiously enough, several days after this operation in San Javier the press reported that more than 300 kilograms of drugs had been seized after a prolonged armed confrontation and that the action had taken place because of a personal "tip" from General Banzer.

From that moment on, the military people connected with the drug traffic were aware that the authorities in power, with their democratic leanings, represented a danger to their activities.

For Jorge "Pipi" Selum, the brilliant interior minister in Lidia Gueiler's administration, the San Javier operation was his last. His men discovered important drug factories and modern weapons destined for paramilitary groups and reported the accident in El Beni involving an aircraft which carried a large shipment of drugs belonging to a firm owned by Col Luis Arce Gomez and Col Norberto Salomon. They also impounded several Colombian aircraft on various clandestine airstrips located near the banks of the Rio Grande. Selum was dismissed and Luis Garcia Meza was named army chief. Garcia Meza, after appointing himself to the rank of division general, spent his time preparing the coup, using the plentiful resources placed at his disposal by the drug mafia. On 17 July the military coup took place, the 189th coup in Bolivia's history.

The superficial investigations made during the brief democratic administration of Lidia Gueiler led to the discovery of German mercenary groups from Paraguay installed in two houses in Santa Cruz and armed to the teeth.

These groups were led by a sadly celebrated man, Klaus Barbie, alias Klaus Altmann, a former Hitler Gestapo agent and a war criminal wanted by French authorities.

Three principal groups have been accused in the MARKA report: those led by Roberto Suarez, Alfredo "Kutuchi" Gutierrez and Jorge Nallar.

The first is extremely active and operates under good military cover. It is supported by Colonel Lara, by the Montero Rangers and by the II Army Corps based in Santa Cruz and headed by Gen Hugo Echeverria. This group produces about 20,000 kilograms of cocaine paste annually.

The second group, under "Kutuchi" Gutierrez, was very active in the final years of Banzer's administration, to which it was closely allied.

Finally, the Nallar group is the biggest producer, putting out 30,000 kilograms of cocaine paste per year. Its operations are centered in the Okinawa, Monteverde and Perseverancia zones, all in northern Santa Cruz.

Nallar's shock troops are famous in the area. They are commanded by Omar Cassib and investigations superintendent Abraham Batista.

Something happened to the planners of the new Bolivian coup headed by Garcia Meza, something similar to what happened to Banzer in the 1978 elections, when he thought he could manipulate the results through fraud and install his protege, Pereda.

When Garcia Meza's calculations proved wrong, he decided to overthrow Lidia Gueiler and save the interests of the narcotics traffickers, who are the real power behind the throne in that country.

8735

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42

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--Interpol agents have arrested Roger Ceballos Robles for possession of 880 grams of cocaine, worth 150,000 quetzales. Ceballos, a Bolivian, was arrested at the airport when he arrived from Colombia. [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Jan 11 PA]

CSO: 5300

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO INVESTIGATE INCREASE IN DRUG USE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] The Public Health Committee of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation would like the Ministries of National Security and Health and the Church to investigate what it described as the increasing use of hard drugs by young people.

In this the International Year of the Disabled Person, the committee would also like both ministries and the Church to make public the dangers of using hard drugs so that young people can be protected.

A resolution to this effect was passed yesterday by the Committee at its monthly meeting at the KSAC's head office, King Street, downtown Kingston.

In moving the resolution, Councillor George Headlam spoke of the proliferation of hard drugs and ganja in the society and the harmful effect that they were having on young people who were increasingly using them.

Young people, he said, were also increasingly becoming involved in the selling of hard drugs and, according to reports, this practice was prevalent in certain areas.

Councillor Headlam said the drugs destroyed and disabled young people. He noted that any move to curb the increasing use of hard drugs by young people in the society would be very timely as this was the International Year of the Disabled Person.

Councillor Headlam said also that he would like to see cigarette boxes carrying the message that cigarettes were a health hazard, regardless of the effect that this might have on cigarette sales and the revenue to be derived.

Councillor A. Dobson, who chaired the meeting, and Councillor Samuel Dreckett also supported Councillor Headlam on the need to curb the increasing use of hard drugs in the society.

CSO: 5300

JAMAICA

FUTURE OF GANJA IN NATION, U.S.-LINK DISCUSSED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 81 pp 6,10

[Article by Barbara Blake: "The Ganja Controversy"]

[Text] It is said that Marcus Garvey smoked 'special cigarettes' for relief of his asthma.

By this time next year, substantial oil deposits will have been located off-shore Jamaica, and the burning issue of the legislation of ganja for economic reasons, will have sufficiently cooled for some rational discussion to have taken effect.

The Jamaican ganja issue fascinates me, and viewed from the perspective of an American sojourn, it takes on an importance which made it inevitable that I retained a close interest while there--for the destinies of Jamaica and America are inextricably intertwined...as some discovered to their cost.

If one were to identify the moment of total world awareness of the Jamaican ganja issue, it would certainly be when it seemed to me that the U.S. Government framed a media trap into which our new Prime Minister stepped--when Associated Press deliberately misquoted his views on the ganja issue just so that he would take time out to specifically clarify the fact that he did not intend to legalise ganja.

Nevertheless, one must admire his calm statement of fact that without importers there would be no exporters, and that he was not yet convinced that the scare claims about ganja were merited. In any case, he truthfully admitted, he was only a servant of the people's will. His candour is to be admired.

What is more to be admired is the admission of truth that the ganja industry was not only the number one source of foreign exchange in Jamaica over the past year or so, but that it provided an economic lifeline without which there would have been sheer starvation across much of Jamaica.

So Entrenched

This statement proves many important points about ganja, one of which is that given the right circumstances, ganja can take its place in the economic recovery

Jamaica so desperately needs. Moreover, I wonder whether ganja has not become so entrenched in the Jamaican and American societies, that wiping it out will be rather like mice trying to bell a cat.

Whether or not the cat needs to be belled, was the subject of a very interesting legal hearing presented by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsay Clarke on behalf of the Coptic Church in Miami last June. The Hearing was to challenge the U.S. Government's classification of ganja as a Schedule One substance: extremely dangerous to health and with no medicinal value or application. Coming from Jamaica, I was aware that this was a harshly inaccurate description. However, I was surprised at the weight of scientific, psychiatric, medical and spiritual evidence which the Coptics presented at that three-day hearing to corroborate the beneficial claims for ganja.

I hope the Coptics will publish a transcript of the hearing, so that all this information will reach people, because I was astonished by the fact that this important test case in U.S. legal history was unattended and ignored by the U.S. media--a fact which showed me the enormous power against which the Coptics are fighting to justify the removal of negative thinking about ganja.

In that Miami courtroom, a judge, court officials, a few curious, and several plainclothes police heard a succession of leading figures present their scholastic credentials in psychiatry, medicine, social behaviour and religion, to testify that on balance, ganja is indeed a beneficial herb which should no longer be prosecuted, but investigated to unearth its full values.

Two Witnesses

Two interesting witnesses were, first, a glaucoma sufferer wearing very thick glasses, who had successfully fought the U.S. courts and won the right to smoke the herb, when he found that using it eased the glaucoma and retained his sight--which doctors had predicted he would already have lost. The second was a young ex-cancer patient, who now looked so healthy--and, frankly, Christ-like--as he testified that smoking the herb was the only way he could overcome the depression, fatigue, nausea and loss of appetite which he had to suffer while undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

As he spoke of his treatment, I began to envision something that may strike a chord in our new Minister of State for Tourism--turning some hotels into chemotherapy treatment centres where people can come and have treatment in a beneficial environment where the medicinally-best herb is available. The young witness seemed not to think of herb except as a part of his medicine, and said that he did not get a 'high' while using it with chemotherapy.

There was another witness, a female Doctor of Sociology, who had studied the St. Thomas Coptics as part of a thesis on Rastafari, and who held the court quietly spellbound as she spoke of the special feeling of living close to the Bible and righteous ways that she had observed among the Coptics.

Most riveting of all testimonies was that of Brother Wally, a Jamaican elder of the Coptic Church, who answered questions from both the defence and the prosecution

on his spiritual beliefs. One could see each person present looking into him- or herself to see if their spiritual beliefs were as strong, and coming up short in the assessment.

However, despite a brilliantly-conceived and quietly-delivered summary by Ramsay Clarke, which demonstrated the deep feelings of humanity and justice which have made this man a still-respected international figure, the Coptics proposition that ganja be reclassified was rejected after months of deliberation by the judge.

Not Surprising

This was not surprising, though disappointing. The prevailing U.S. ganja laws were made in America in the 30s, when the Depression had eroded America's high puritan moral values with poverty and decline. Ganja became one of the thrills of a thrill-seeking underworld, and was associated with black people, leading to the claim that it would make 'decent white people' become like black people, and lead to prostitution, female depravity, drink, and eventually to heroin addiction.

Though the evolution of time has exposed this attitude as naive and hysterical, the ganja laws have never been changed, especially since ganja became a counter-culture symbol of the anti-war generation.

Ganja had no powerful legislative lobby, such as those which supported the big chemical drug firms which flourished on the profits of mass-produced barbiturates which, after alcohol, now constitute the second-most-widely abused drug in America and the world. Yet, barbiturates, according to the same analysis which places ganja in Schedule One, are classified Schedule Three, and alcohol is not listed as dangerous at all.

What is bugging America is that a lot of young children are breaking away at an early age from the expected stereo-type, in ways that upset their television-conditioned parents. Some of these children start smoking pot, lose interest in school, become uncontrollable, and eventually end up hooked on a variety of the widely-available chemical drugs and pills. The herb is blamed as a source of this, but we in Jamaica know that this is not the norm.

In fact, the hearing aired the fact that alienation from parents caused by methods of upbringing, is often the main cause of delinquent behaviour in children, who turn to the herb and then other drugs in search of panaceas for their serious psychological problems caused by the society in which they live.

'Social break'

Yet at another level, the herb is an accepted 'social break' in America at all levels of society. Mid-Manhattan workers buy their after-lunch smoke in nearby parks, and people smoke openly all over that city, perhaps even more openly than in Jamaica.

I was never tempted to try New York herb, especially since most if it is mixed with something called 'angel dust'--a vicious chemical which the kids love, but which makes them try to fly off ghetto roofs. In this sub-culture, it would seem easy to point a finger at the herb and blame it for these social ills, but on the other hand one may perceive the wisdom of the Holy Word when it instructs one to avoid the herb that is not blessed to God.

In the United States there are already government farms where ganja is grown and processed into the extract, as well as neatly-packaged cigarettes for medical application. One wonders how long it will be before the U.S. wisely controls the growing of its sizeable herb cultivation, and there seems no logical reason why we should not do the same and produce it for economic benefits--even if we never smoke another fragrant leaf. One in ten Americans is estimated to be touched by cancer, and ganja's beneficial properties is widely discussed among cancer sufferers.

So, when all the above-mentioned facts are revealed, it comes as a point of interest to many Jamaicans who respect their works, that the Coptics will go on trial shortly for allegedly bringing into America tons of this 'dangerous substance' which has 'no beneficial medical value,' and it goes without saying that the case will be followed with interest. The man pinpointed as the God-father of the ganja man, is Niah Keith, an interesting and surprisingly wise person whom many consider God in man, and their spiritual father. He is a soft-spoken man, who expresses the truth and wisdom of Rastafari elders, and he receives the respect and admiration of a large group of strong individuals in all sectors of Jamaican life.

Acknowledged

Niah Keith is confident that the herb will not only become legal in Jamaica, but in the world. "The people of Jamaica know their rights. They know their right to the herb in righteousness, for they know that when they take in the herb, they take in righteousness. The economic power of the herb has been acknowledged by even the Prime Minister. So I don't see how they are going to stop it, and I don't see why they should want to stop it. The herb is our God-given gift to keep man in touch with God. Only those who are not of God fight the herb," he says.

Our new Minister of Agriculture, Broderick, first earned my respect as the only member of the Parliamentary Commission on Ganja who had a sensible attitude to legalisation based on carefully researched facts. I am certain that he also sees the possibility of a controlled ganja industry which could not only produce medicine, but clothing, paint, rope, oil and paper as agri-products of a crop of proven economic value.

At the Miami Hearing, one court witness--a Jewish-European refugee scientist living in America--produced evidence of tests conducted by him which proved that ganja caused brain, foetal and reproductive damage. On cross-questioning, he was forced to admit that amounts of the medicine administered to lab animals

were sometimes three and ten times the normal human dose--proving that you can prove anything if you try hard enough.

This, of course, will be small comfort to those Jamaicans who fear that legalising ganja will harmfully expose their children to its use, anymore than their walking past betting shops and rum bars makes them gamblers and drunkards. And suppose ganja exposure addicted one to nothing more harmful than an absence of cancer and an abundance of righteousness,--to say nothing about 'special cigarettes' for the relief of asthma.

CSO: 5300

JAMAICA

PLANE, VAN, SIX MEN HELD FOR GANJA SMUGGLING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Police seized a light airplane, two vans and over 1,000 lbs of ganja and arrested six men on ganja charges in two operations in Trelawny over the weekend.

The plane, an American registered twin-engine Cessna with markings N2716F, crashed while landing at the Braco airstrip Sunday afternoon and the pilot left the scene shortly after, police said.

During a search of the area police accosted two men who were seen sitting in a Transit van near the airstrip and during a search of the vehicle about 500 lbs of cured ganja was found. The plane was apparently on a ganja mission, police said.

Robert Scott, 26, driver of Dome Street, Montego Bay, St James, and Michael Francis, 28, of Hopewell, Hanover, were subsequently arrested and charged with possession of ganja and preparing ganja for export.

In an earlier incident, on Saturday, police on mobile patrol intercepted a Transit van on the main road at Salt March and arrested four men after over 600 lb of ganja was found in the van.

Eddison Garner, 29, Ashley Gooden, 29, and a 17-year-old boy, all of Bogue Heights, Montego Bay, and Roxroy Williams, 24, electrician of Ironshore, Montego Bay, were arrested and charged with possession of ganja and trafficking in ganja. All six men arrested have been remanded in custody to be taken before the Falmouth R. M. Court tomorrow.

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BOLIVIAN PRISONERS CONTINUE TO CONTROL DRUG RING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Dec 80 p 8-D

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] The case of the arrest of a drug dealer with 100 million pesos worth of drugs, in Tapachula, Chiapas, has been clarified.

Bolivians arrested for narcotics laws violations continue to control foreign drug traffic from their confinement in the North Prison.

This became evident yesterday when Federal Judicial Police officers under the command of Gen Raul Mendiola Cercecero arrested Medardo Cuellar Chavez, a Bolivian citizen, in Tapachula, Chiapas, who had over 100 million pesos worth of pure cocaine in his possession. The cocaine was scheduled to be delivered by Eduardo Aguilera Echazu, who is defending the Bolivian incarcerated in the aforementioned prison, to Attorney Ricardo de la Garza y Garza.

In addition, two Mexican brothers, Armando and Rodolfo Ontiveros Sandoval, who have also been arrested for drug traffic law violations, are presumed to be involved in the case of the drugs confiscated in Tapachula, Chiapas.

The investigation points out that Ricardo de la Garza y Garza was scheduled to distribute cocaine to international drug dealers.

Medardo Cuellar Chavez was contracted by Ricardo de la Garza y Garza to transport the drugs from Bolivia to Guatemala, and from there to Tapachula, Chiapas, following which, by foiling security safeguards, he was to transport it to the Federal District.

Cuellar Chavez planned to check in at the Hotel Ejecutivo, on Viena Street, upon landing in Mexico City, where a person was to come to make "contact" with him.

Because Medardo Cuellar had been arrested in Chiapas and had revealed the foregoing, the Federal Judicial Police staked out the site and arrested Salvador Ontiveros Sandoval, the brother of Armando and Rodolfo, who had been sent there by Ricardo de la Garza y Garza.

Salvador Ontiveros said that attorney de la Garza y Garza had sent him to the Hotel Ejecutivo to inform Medardo Cuellar that "the attorney would come by to pick up the consignment" within the next several hours.

With this information in hand, the Federal Judicial Police arrested de la Garza y Garza as he was leaving his residence, at Manuel Gutierrez Zamora 134, Colonia Las Aguilas.

Ricardo de la Garza y Garza was also imprisoned for narcotics law violations for 3 years and a few months in the Western Prison.

Both the attorney for the North Prison drug traffickers and Salvador Ontiveros Sandoval were sent to Tapachula, Chiapas, where Medardo Cuellar was imprisoned.

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CSO: 5300

PANAMA

BRIEFS

CONVICTION OF U.S. DRUG TRAFFICKER--Collin Gregory George, a U.S. national and master of the vessel Roondipe of Panamanian registry, has been sentenced by a Panama City court to 40 months in jail in the Coiba Island prison for drug trafficking. The Roondipe was caught carrying between 20 and 25 tons of marihuana in international waters and was detained in October 1980 by the U.S. Coast Guard on instructions from the Panamanian Government. In addition, the sentence adjudicated the title to the Roondipe to the Republic of Panama. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jan 81 p 3 PA]

COCAINE SMUGGLER--Panama, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian police disclosed today that narcotics agents arrested U.S. citizen John Hargis Skaggs at Tocumen airport over the weekend when a package of cocaine was found in his briefcase. He was en route from Bogota to Nassau. The police did not disclose the amount or the value of the drug found. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1323 GMT 19 Feb 81 PA]

COCAINE ARREST --On his arrival from Bogota, Colombian Jose Herminul Varon was arrested by narcotics agents at Tocumen airport when he tried to smuggle cocaine into Panama in the heels of his shoes and in a small envelop in his wallet. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Feb 81 p 17 PA]

CSO: 5300

IRAN

EIGHTEEN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED IN MASHHAD

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jan 81 p 9

[Article: "Opium Dealer Sentenced to Death in Mashhad"]

[Text] Mashhad--PARS News Agency--By order of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Mashhad 18 narcotics traffickers were tried and sentenced during the last 5 days at the Islamic Revolutionary Council of Mashhad.

1. Gholamhoseyn Nasser, son of Ali Madad, was sentenced to death for selling 3 kilograms of opium and for distributing opium. The sentence can be carried out after confirmation by the Tehran Supreme Court.
2. Aqa Shir, son of Nazar Mohammad, was sentenced to 15 years in first degree criminal prison for concealing and transporting 180 grams of heroin and 3 grams of hashish.
3. Sardar Mohammad, son of Gholam Ghavas--an Afghani--was sentenced to 10 years in first degree criminal prison for unauthorized importation into Iran and the transporting and concealing of 145 grams of heroin.
4. Yosef Shirin Su'i, son of Baba Mohammad, was sentenced to 1 year in second degree criminal prison for opium addiction and for possession of 1,900 grams of opium.
5. Ali Asghar Jana'i, son of Hoseyn, alias Asghar Sheitan, was sentenced to 10 years in second degree criminal prison for possessing and transporting 50 grams of heroin.
6. Mir 'Abbas Kolateh'i, son of Mir Mohammad, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of 1,500 grams of opium residue.
7. Mohammad 'Ali Mahmudi was sentenced to 8 years in second degree criminal prison for possession of 18 grams of heroin.
8. Gholamhoseyn Kolateh'i, son of Mohammad Ja'far, was sentenced to 5 years in second degree criminal prison for selling 1 kilogram of opium residue.
9. Asghar Nejati, son of Gholam Sakhi, was sentenced to 5 years in second degree criminal prison for transporting and possessing 13.3 grams of heroin.

10. Ali Yazdanpanah, son of Hoseyn, was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, 2 years of which were converted to a 26-month suspension, for possession of 87.5 grams of heroin and 13 grams of opium.

11. Mohammad Molla 'Aliakbari, son of Nasser, was sentenced to 5 years in second degree criminal prison for using opiates and selling 20 centigrams of narcotics.

12. Gholam'ali Yavari was sentenced to 5 years in second degree criminal prison for possession of 80 grams of heroin.

13. 'Ali Afzali, son of Hoseyn, was sentenced to 10 years, 3 of which were suspended, for possession of 435 grams of opium residue and the use of narcotics.

14. Hoseyn Afkhami, son of Darvish, was sentenced to 10 years in second degree criminal prison for possession of 32.3 grams of narcotics and for addiction to opiates.

15. 'Alla Akbar Qasemi, son of Hoseyn, was sentenced to 5 years in second degree criminal prison, 3 of which were suspended, for possession of 148 grams of opium, 20 grams of burnt opium residue, 960 grams of opium resin and for addiction to narcotics.

16. 'Ali Akbar 'Abdollahi was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment in a second degree criminal prison for acting as a go-between in the sale of opiates.

17. Ma'sumeh Morshedlu was sentenced to 1 year in correctional prison for concealing 80 grams of heroin.

18. Hajji Ahmadshah, son of Gholam, was sentenced to 3 months in correctional prison for possession of 1 gram of heroin.

Also, Vali Valizadeh, son of Heydar, was sentenced to 5 years in second degree prison, 3 years of which were converted to a 2-year suspended sentence, for possession of a G-3 rifle and a Colt caliber 32.

9310

CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

NARCOTIC DISTRIBUTORS SENTENCED--A revolution court in Shiraz on 14 February reviewed the cases of three drug distributors and sentenced them to between 5 to 15 years' imprisonment and hard labor. [GF161916 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Feb 81]

NARCOTICS CONFISCATED--The LAR police and drug squad has arrested 11 individuals for sexual and drug offenses in the past 3 days, confiscating 17 grams of heroin. In the same period the police arrested two Afghans for possessing 17 grams of hashish. [GF011838 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Mar 81]

CSO: 5300

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HEROIN DEALERS CAUGHT--The Tel Aviv police caught 26 suspected heroin dealers yesterday after prolonged surveillance. The police say that some of the suspects are "very big fish in the drug business," and that their arrests will land a body blow to the Israeli drug trade which has reached epidemic proportions. A significant number of the suspects are key figures in the Tel Aviv and Jaffa underworld. Some of the suspects have been convicted in Western Europe and the United States for drug dealing. [TA201351 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Feb 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

ARREST FOR HEMP PLANTING--A middle-aged man believed to be the brain behind the planting of the three hectre land of Indian hemp in Offia-omu near Ohafia Agba in Ishielu Local Government Area, has entered the net of the Ishielu Divisional Police command. He gave his name as "James Igweh." Sources close to the Police headquarters at Ezzangbo, said the man was arrested after a rigorous investigation in the area. The Police has earlier helped the suspect to harvest the hemp valued at N2 million and taken the custody of the dangerous weeds. The suspect was said to have made a confessional statement to the police claiming that he had been in the business from the western parts of the country. When contacted the divisional police officer for Ishielu, Mr N. E. Oji, confirmed the arrest of the suspect adding that a two count charge of "planting and harvesting Indian hemp" might be preferred against him very soon in the law court. [Text] [Enugu WEEKLY STAR in English 1 Feb 81 p 10]

CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

EXPERT FINDS COCAINE NEARLY AS DANGEROUS AS HEROIN

Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 24/25 Jan 81 p 17

[Text] The state attorney's office Munich I is now in possession of an opinion concerning the danger of cocaine, an opinion which was commissioned in connection with three actions currently being conducted by this enforcement agency concerning the trade in this South American drug. According to this opinion cocaine ranks only just behind heroin, which is derived from the poppy. In two of the pertinent investigations in Munich, as the SZ reported in detail, well-known actors and directors and a musician have been named as users.

The first investigation began in summer 1980. The two suspected dealers are now in custody, while, according to the most recent report, investigation proceedings had to be instituted against 12 of their customers. In late fall three more arrests were made. According to police findings a bar in Schwabing was involved, where cocaine had been handed out under the counter.

The third suspected cocaine dealer, who was put behind bars some time ago, had passed the drug out only to two interested parties. One of them was a police informer who masqueraded as a buyer. Since the drug, obtained from the South American coca plant, is relatively new on the Munich market the state attorney's office had to have its dangers examined scientifically. Two opinions were commissioned, the first of which has been submitted to the state attorney's office in the last few days. If one uses a danger scale from 1 to 10, on which hashish is at 1 or 2 and heroin at 10, cocaine would occupy 9th place. In the words of a judiciary spokesman, the dangers of cocaine could be classified in a simpler fashion on the basis of the expert opinion.

9581
CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BRIEFS

DRUG RING SMASHED--German and American customs investigators and the U.S. criminal police (CID) have smashed a drug ring in the rural kreis Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Fifteen young men between the ages of 16 and 25 were arrested, and drugs worth DM 400,000 were seized. Those suspected have been under observation since November last year. Forty kgs of hashish, 250 LSD tablets, 10 grams of heroin, 5 grams of cocaine and 180 packages of marihuana were found in their apartments and cars. Among the 15 arrested were 3 American soldiers and 3 American civilians. [Text] [Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 15 Jan 81 p 17] 9581

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

DRUGS SEIZED--Drug squad police seized 1.8 kilos of pure white heroin, enough for 50,000 doses worth FR 1.4 million when resold, in Vitry-Sur-Seine in Val-de-Marne on Wednesday. The two Algerian traffickers, who bought the heroin in Bangkok, were arrested. [LD242126 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 22 Feb 81]

CSO: 5300

NORWAY

OSLO POLICE SEIZE FIRST LARGE AMOUNT OF LSD IN YEARS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Jan 81 p 14

[Article by Inge D. Hanssen]

[Text] For the first time in several years the Oslo police have seized LSD. When searching the home of a 26-year-old man the police found 85 LSD drips hidden in the freezer of the parents. "The police consider each case where LSD is found very serious because LSD is one of the most dangerous narcotics we have. The danger of mental illness is great with the use of LSD and the police therefore wish to clarify this case," says police officer Christian Christiansen to AFTENPOSTEN.

The 26-year-old was put in jail for 3 weeks yesterday in the Oslo interrogatory court. He is charged with conspiring to smuggle LSD into the country and storing the substance. In front of the police the accused has said that the substance had been sent to him from Amsterdam, but the police want to investigate this somewhat more closely.

As mentioned above several years have passed since the police last seized LSD in such large amounts. The substance was more widespread at the end of the 1960's and in the beginning of the 1970's. LSD comes in pills or in so-called drips. The latter means that the substance in liquid form is dropped on a paper which is chewed by the user. The price of one drip has varied very much on the Oslo market. Earlier up to 500 crowns could be paid for one drip, but the police know also that the price has been down in the range of 50-60 crowns.

LSD is easy to smuggle both in the form of pills and as a liquid from one country to another since the pills are no bigger than the head of a pin. The 85 drips were on a very small piece of paper.

"The police pay special attention to this substance since it is so dangerous. Even one initial use can cause significant mental confusion and permanent disorder. The disorder can recur a long time after the substance has been taken," says police officer Christian Christiansen to AFTENPOSTEN.

LSD is produced chemically and there is vast international police collaboration in order to fight the producers of the substance. Some time ago a circular was sent from Scotland Yard to the narcotics police of several countries requesting that LSD samples be sent each time when it was confiscated. There is a suspicion that Dutch interests are behind a large part of the illegal production.

The 26-year-old who is jailed in this LSD case has also earlier been condemned for narcotic crimes according to the Drug Law. He has admitted that he himself used two drips on top of the 85 that were seized. How much this man has brought into the country is not currently known. The police do, however, hope that further investigations will clarify this matter.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

TURKISH CONNECTION SEEN VITAL TO OPIUM SMUGGLING

Tehran KEYHAN in English 9 Feb 81 p 3

[Text]

ANKARA, Turkey (Dispatches) — Across Turkey's forbidding, high mountainous borders lies an "unlimited supply" of the gum opium, the stuff from which heroin is made. Most of that illegal product will eventually cross Turkey on its way to Western markets.

Informed sources here claim Afghanistan and Pakistan, in the last two opium poppy growing seasons alone, have harvested enough opium to satisfy American and West European heroin addicts for the next 40 years.

While Turkish narcotics police claim they are making big gains in catching smugglers, other observers here doubt the current Turkish effort will be able to stanch the flow from the enormous reserves across the border.

"Apparently we fail to prevent this because the smugglers have great imagination and skill, and we have an extreme shortage of skilled men and equipment to track them down", complained Istanbul narcotics section chief Ahmet Altan.

Turkey, while still a main East-West transit point for morphine and heroin, is no longer also a chief supplier.

Under U.S. pressure, poppy growing was outlawed here between 1971 and 1973. Now the plants are growing again but under strict government supervision and in only seven provinces. Most of the opium goes to the Turkish pharmaceuticals industry or is exported to other countries for the same purpose.

The drugs move out of Turkey by several routes. By boat from the south or west coasts, south through Syria to Beirut, Lebanon or Amman, Jordan, or northwest from Istanbul toward Germany.

The heroin problem in Europe is especially serious in West Germany, where 410 persons died last year from heroin overdoses — nearly double the U.S. rate.

Sources here said the majority of heroin reaching West Germany arrives stashed in the baggage and cars of Turkish guest workers returning from vacations at home.

There are 1.5 million Turkish workers and their families living in West Germany. The heavy flow of the workers makes detection dif-

ficult for border officials.

While no one can estimate how much heroin or morphine base crosses Turkey annually, statistics indicate Pakistan and Afghanistan produced 1,600 metric tons of gum opium in the 1978-79 growing season and an equal amount last year. That makes 3,200 metric tons.

That translates into 320 metric tons of pure heroin. The U.S. market is about 4 tons annually and the West Europeans are thought to use nearly that much.

The temptation to get into the drug business is huge. Sources here said a heroin trafficker in Italy, for example, could buy 100 kilos of morphine base for about 800,000 dollars. After processing and shipping the heroin his laboratory produced, the drug would be worth 20 million dollars on the streets of New York.

Including expenses for the cost of the morphine base, the processing into heroin and the shipping, that would leave a profit of 18.5 million dollars on an investment of about 1.5 million.

While the huge stocks remain east of Turkey, the price of heroin stays low and its supply abundant.

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END